

PHASE IV DEBRIS REMOVAL SURVEY
Environmental Unit Review

Waterway: Tangipahoa River #2000

NOAA reviewer: Jessica White

Date: 10 MARCH 2008

Checklist of Environmental Factors – Assess the potential for impacts to the following resources/areas and coordinate as necessary:

☒ Habitat/environmental sensitivity

- FW marsh and bottomland hardwood /wetland surround river. Keep equipment and vehicles in water to avoid physical damage to habitat.

☒ Threatened/endangered species

- Do not physically alter/damage water bottom or shoreline and surrounding uplands.

☒ Cultural/historical resources

- Do not physically alter/damage banks, shoreline or surrounding uplands.

☐ Oyster habitat

☐ State/federal/tribal lands

☐ Scenic waterway

Summary and Conclusions of Environmental Review:

Habitat: River is surrounded by freshwater marsh at the south end and forested wetland/bottom land hardwood to the north. Avoid creating ruts in this soft ground by limiting travel to open water.

Biological resources: Threatened Gulf Sturgeon (#501) is potentially found in the southern end of the river from March to November. Operations must not impact banks, bedrock, large gravel/cobble beds, marl or soapstone. Also present are a rare raptor (# 465, present Feb-Aug and nesting Mar-Jun) and aquatic dependent birds (# 76, herons). Impacts to raptor can be avoided by staying away from pine tree stands. Herons (great blue, great and anhinga) are not protected but should not be disturbed during operations.

Cultural/historic: 16 prehistoric Native American sites are located along the river – most are shell middens used as collecting and processing areas for clams. Avoid impacts to banks and area surrounding the river.

Oyster habitat: No oyster leases or public areas in this waterway.

State/federal/tribal lands: The river is surrounded by historic Native American sites, but is not adjacent to state WMA or federal refuge. No coordination necessary.

Scenic waterway status: The river is designated as a scenic waterway from IH-12 continuing north. Operations will not take place in this portion of the river.